

'American' a beauty with Academy voters

By John Hartl
Knight-Ridder Tribune

"American Beauty," a soulful satire about suburbia, led the way when the 72nd annual Academy Award nominations were announced Tuesday in Los Angeles.

The DreamWorks production received eight nominations, including best picture, actor (Kevin Spacey), actress (Annette Bening), director (Sam Mendes), screenwriter (Alan Ball), cinematography (Conrad Hall), editing (Tariq Anwar) and score (Thomas Newman).

Also nominated for best picture were Lasse Hallstrom's adaptation of John Irving's novel, "The Cider House Rules"; Michael Mann's "The Insider," a fact-based drama about an exposé of the tobacco industry; M. Night Shyamalan's "The Sixth Sense," a box-office blockbuster about a boy who sees dead people; and Frank Darabont's three-hour prison drama, "The Green Mile."

Hallstrom, Shyamalan and Mann were nominated for best director, but Darabont was replaced in that category by Spike Jonze, who made the surrealistic comedy "Being John Malkovich."

Bening, who plays Spacey's unhappy wife in "American Beauty," faces equally tough competition: Janet McTeer's spirited — if immature — mother in "Tumbleweeds," Julianne Moore as a wartime adulteress with a spiritual side in "The End of the Affair," Hilary Swank as the cross-dressing Teena Brandon in "Boys Don't Cry" and Meryl Streep as a dedicated music teacher in "Music of the Heart."

For best supporting actress, the nominees include Angelina Jolie, as a mentally disturbed girl in "Girl, Interrupted"; Toni Collette as the boy's mother in "The Sixth Sense"; and Samantha Morton as Sean Penn's girlfriend in "Sweet and Lowdown." Chloe Sevigny, who plays Swank's sexually confused lover in "Boys Don't Cry," is also nominated in this category, along with Catherine Keener, who plays a similarly mixed-up office worker in "Being John Malkovich."

Tom Cruise earned his third nomination, this time in the supporting category, for his work as a misogynistic motivational speaker in "Magnolia." His competition includes Michael Caine, as an abortionist in "The Cider House Rules"; Haley Joel Osment, as the perceptive child in "The Sixth Sense"; Michael Clarke Duncan as a death-row miracle worker in "The Green Mile"; and Jude Law as a hedonistic ex-patriate in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor were nominated for best adapted screenplay for their work on the high-school satire, "Election," based on Tom Perrotta's novel. Also in that category are Anthony Minghella, for his adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's "The Talented Mr. Ripley"; Michael Mann and Eric Roth for "The Insider," based on Marie Brenner's magazine article; John Irving, working from his own novel, "The Cider House Rules"; and Darabont for his adaptation of Stephen King's novel, "The Green Mile."

The race for best original screen-



Courtesy Fox Searchlight Pictures

Chloe Sevigny, left, and Hilary Swank each earned an Oscar nomination for their roles in 'Boys Don't Cry.'

play appears to be a toss-up between Alan Ball's script for "American Beauty" and Charlie Kaufman's "Being John Malkovich." Also in the running are Paul Thomas Anderson's "Magnolia," M. Night Shyamalan's "The Sixth Sense" and Mike Leigh's "Topsy-Turvy."

Spain's "All About My Mother," directed by Pedro Almodovar, was nominated for best foreign-language film, along with France's "East-West," Nepal's "Caravan," Sweden's


"Under the Sun" and the United Kingdom's "Solomon and Gaenor."

The past year's most popular non-fiction film, Wim Wenders' "The Buena Vista Social Club," was nominated for best documentary, but Errol Morris' "Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter Jr." and Chris Smith's "American Movie" were shut out by "Genghis Blues," "On the Ropes," "One Day in September" and "Speaking in Strings."

"The Matrix" and "Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace" will be competing for best visual effects, sound recording and sound effects editing. And the highly bleepable "Blame Canada," from "South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut," was nominated for best song.

Billy Crystal will host this year's Academy Awards, which begin with a pre-show special at 8 p.m. ET March 26 in Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium.

Duck BUCKS



- money-saving coupons
- good all term

Available at the Emerald Office Suite 300 EMU.

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Reclaiming the vagina

'The Vagina Monologues,'
performed
on Valentine's Day,
extolled the
feminine
genitalia

By Sandra Colton
for the Emerald

"Vagina! Dare I say it? Vagina; I'll say it again!"

Those were the first words uttered by Carol Horne in "The Vagina Monologues," a play presented Feb. 14 by the EMU Cultural Forum in collaboration with Little Apple Productions. The event was held to raise awareness in the fight to stop violence against women.

Some of the topics featured in the play were the importance that hair plays on and around the vagina, how one explores the vagina and all its potential, the reclaiming of the word "vagina," as well as the smell and sexuality that surrounds the vagina.

"It covered all of the emotions. I thought it was really good," said University student Justus McCann, a journalism major.

The author of "The Vagina Monologues" is Eve Ensler, and she and other performers such as Julie Kavner, Swoosie Kurtz and Rosie Perez regularly bring the show to New York City stages. Ensler is an award-winning poet, playwright, screenwriter and activist; "The Vagina Monologues" won a 1997 Obie Award and was also nominated for Drama Desk and Helen Hayes awards.

The University cast — Horne, the artistic director of Little Ap-

ple, Cynthia Gomez, Diane Johnson, Melissa Lebofsky, T.K. McDonald, and Margot Treiger — were joined by nine special guests. An estimated 200 people attended the show in the Gerlinger Lounge.

The V-Day 2000 College Initiative is a growing movement nationwide and worldwide to get colleges to "celebrate V-Day in their communities with a performance of 'The Vagina Monologues' on Valentine's Day," according to the organization's literature.

The mission statement of V-Day outlines a "vision of a world where women live safely and freely." The only way the performance can be put on at a university or college is if the event's profits are directed to organizations that raise awareness about violence against women. The three organizations involved with this presentation were Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS), Womenspace and Mother Kali's Bookstore.

Horne said pointed out to the audience that acts of violence against women happen on a daily basis in our society. In the play, she said that 500,000 women are raped in the United States each year. A spokesperson from Womenspace stated that "70 percent of men who abuse

their female partners also abuse their children."

In 1999, there were about 65 colleges involved in V-Day Initiative and this year there were about 160 that participated, Horne said. "Next year [the national organization is] shooting for 300 and the big event, the millennium one in 2001, is going to be held at Madison Square Garden."

Even though the word "vagina" does not usually come up in everyday conversation, throughout this performance the buzz around the room was that very word.

The program reached emotional highs with laughter, hooting and hollering. "The Vagina Monologues" cast created the playful atmosphere by pulling the audience in with humor and keeping it there with stories of pain and wonder.

The show, which lasted an hour and 45 minutes, was followed by a standing ovation from the audience.

"This is the best Valentine's Day I've ever had in all of my 53 years," an audience participant Mary Drew said.

When it was all finished, "The Vagina Monologues" turned out to be a play that wants to involve people and send the message that violence against women must be stopped. In addition, they asked the predominantly female audience to reclaim the words that had been silenced or taken away from them.